

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides for an activity log which may include user proactive billing management for use in a powerful, facilities-based, broadband communications system that guarantees voice, data and video communication reliability and security to users for an multimedia system including integrated telephone, television and data network. The activity log and user proactive billing management may log incoming calls directory numbers (DNs) and outgoing call DN's in a database. The database containing the activity log may be provided at a central system location, such as the at IP Central Station or at the system subscriber's customer premises equipment (e.g., broadband residential computer (BRG), personal computer (PC), etc.). The activity log may also log incoming and outgoing email interactive sessions (e.g., instant message (IM) email) and log multimedia video and audio calls. The activity logs may include, along with the DN, system address, and/or email address, supplemental information such as the "to be contacted" party's name and relevant information (e.g., company, address, client billing number, etc.) as well as billing information such as the time length of the previous communication and any associated charges for the previous communication. The system may obtain the supplemental information by, for example, user entry on an activity log screen, caller ID information, electronic public telephone directories, and/or extraction from the user's electronic address or telephone book. According to one variation of the invention, these logs may be accessed and used by the system user to enable auto dialing (e.g., auto redial) of, for example, any previously dialed DN's or previously received incoming call DN's (both answered and unanswered). According to another variation of the invention, the activity log(s) may be provided to the user with a graphical user interface using, for example, a display and scroll feature so that the user can scroll through the log(s) of previous communications (e.g., calls) and designate the desired DN or address by highlighting, clicking on, or tagging the desired DN or address in the list. In response the system will connect to (e.g., dial/call) the user designated by the previously utilized DN or address. According to a further variation of the invention, the user may access the activity log(s) and identify any communication the cost of

which should be billed to a different party. The activity log may also be sorted based on user preferences and set to direct calls to low cost alternatives.

SECRET - E625460